

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered for purposes of the present application. Claims 1 to 9, as filed in the international application, have been amended to correct minor informalities and multiple dependencies. Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 11-18 have been added to claim the subject matter in the claims having multiple dependencies. Claims 1-9 and 11-18 are therefore presented for consideration. The specification has also been amended herein to include section headings at appropriate locations and an abstract. It is submitted that no new matter has been added.

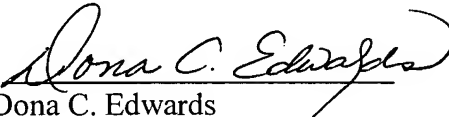
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide indication that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner in the next formal communication.

This Preliminary Amendment is believed to be timely filed. If a petition for extension of time and/or any other fees are required, the Patent and Trademark Office is specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

By:   
Dona C. Edwards  
Reg. No. 42,507

Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.  
1140 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
(212) 768-3800